



The Allons Ledger



Deployment Newsletter for the 2-15 Field Artillery Regiment

Vol. 1, June 16-July 15, 2004

2-15 FAR Prepares For Combat

UDAIRI, KUWAIT: The main body of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment arrived in Kuwait on the 17th of June and began preparing for operations north of the Kuwaiti-Iraq border. Advance elements had arrived earlier.

The Soldiers and leaders of the battalion commenced training with all three firing batteries conducting Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM) training, in the scorching Kuwaiti heat. This training gave Soldiers confidence in both their fellow Soldiers and personal weapons systems.



HHS Soldiers Kicking in a door at the Mobile MOUT Site

Living conditions for the Soldiers were as good as the Kuwait desert allows. Soldiers ate three hot meals a day, slept in air-conditioned tents, and had access to showers.

The ships arrived early the next week with the battalion's equipment and after unloading their gear, the Soldiers continued to train. The three firing batteries went to the field for a daylong live-fire and calibration exercise. The three batteries fired a total of 108 rounds of high explosive and 144 rounds of rocket-assisted projectiles. 3rd Section, A Battery fired the first 105mm rounds for the Regiment in the Middle East at 0601 hours local time on 1 July, 2004.



3rd Section, A Battery after firing first round for 2-15 FAR

Our Q36 radar section tracked all 105mm rounds fired.

Over the 4th of July weekend, HHS battery Soldiers conducted CQM and convoy live fire exercise training. The battery fired over 6,000 rounds of small arms ammunition during the convoy live fire.



HHS soldiers enroute to convoy live fire training

The battalion continues to prepare for the oncoming approach march into Iraq and the combat operations that will follow. After four weeks in the desert, we are all acclimated to the dry heat. Firing battery Soldiers took advantage of a unique opportunity to train with the mechanized infantry battalion attached to 2nd Brigade from Fort Riley, Kansas. Soldiers executed a live fire exercise with Abrams main battle tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles and got to train in and around the Bradleys.



Training with the mechanized Soldiers of 1-41 Infantry

Final preparations for the move north have been intense as Soldiers and leaders continue to incorporate new vehicles and weapons into our fighting capability. Soldiers and leaders are checking and double-checking to be sure they are ready for combat operations. There are many challenges ahead for the battalion, but the men of the battalion are trained and ready for any mission they will be assigned.

Commanders' Corner

HHS BTRY: Moving people, equipment, and providing any support the battalion requires. "Headhunters" take every task in stride without missing a beat. I've never seen a unit able to accomplish so much in so short a time in such adverse conditions. Your Soldier has shown his true grit through sand storms and sweltering heat. He is motivated to making the mission happen whether it's working within or outside his MOS. Trainers on camp have commented that these Soldiers perform better than many of the infantry Soldiers they've seen performing the very same tasks. It's their intelligence that sets them apart and allows them to grasp these skills quickly. Confident and ready, a few hundred miles of bad road to the north will only demonstrate their resolve. Your support and words of encouragement make it possible for this fine group of men to focus their efforts on accomplishing their mission. It's that mission that will help to ensure freedom and security for our country and our children. Thanks for all you do!



HHS Soldiers "stacking" in urban operations training

A BTRY: The Gators have been hard at work in Kuwait. We have trained hard and are more ready than we thought we would be in the short time we have been here. We haven't lost our sense of humor though. The Soldiers made a mascot out of sandbags, which guards the front door to our tent. They've also painted the Gator Emblem on our new vehicles. We all look forward to doing our job, doing it well, and coming home.



"The Gator" at Camp Buehring

B BTRY: Greetings from Kuwait! The Bulldog Battery has been hard at work training and preparing for a number of possible future missions. The Soldiers, NCOs and officers from B Battery have been working hard in temperatures up to 120 degrees. We have downloaded all of our equipment that arrived after a month long boat trip. Over the last few weeks the battery has conducted live fire calibration, urban operations training, close quarters marksmanship training and a convoy live fire. In spite of all the training and maintaining, the battery still has managed to find time to enjoy the air-conditioned tents.



Bulldogs take a break for a group photo in Kuwait

C BTRY: The Cold Steel family has been hard at work this past month. We have been training extremely hard to refine all of our combat skills. Cold Steel Soldiers have conducted CQM training, urban operations training, convoy live fire, combat lifesaver and artillery live fire. Also, we have received up-armored Humvees, new night vision equipment, and additional machine guns. All of this training and the new equipment has set the battery up for success in Iraq. Every Soldier within the Cold Steel battery is trained and ready for the mission in Iraq.



Cold Steel battery at their live fire training

ALLONS 6: Let's Go... to Iraq! We will be heading north soon and beginning combat operations. I am extremely proud of the Soldiers of this great battalion and can confidently say we are ready for combat. It has been a hard month of training here in the Kuwait desert, but it has been well worth the sweat. We have developed the capabilities to serve as mobile infantry and light cavalry in addition to our traditional field artillery role.

Thankfully, we have only had to redeploy a few Soldiers for medical reasons and emergency leave so far. Thanks to the Ladies and families supporting our deployed Soldiers- we cannot succeed without you. And a very special thanks to the volunteers in the Family Readiness Group and our Adopt-a-Platoon sponsors! **LET'S GO!**

